why should I conserve?

Although tap water is a bargain at $.0025 per gallon when compared to most other products, the total cost of water usage can add up quickly when other factors such as drinking water treatment, facility improvements, wastewater treatment and the energy used for treating, pumping and heating water are factored in.

We also have to remember that water is a limited resource, we will never have any more water on earth than what we have right now. So while it's necessary for us to use water to survive, and to produce most of the products we use on a daily basis, it also pays for us to protect it as a natural resource for use by future generations.

Studies have shown that the typical person uses between 75 and 100 gallons of water per day in the home. For a family of four, this means that somewhere around 11,000 gallons of water is used in a typical month, or around 128,000 gallons of water per year. So even by cutting back on our typical usage by 20%, it's easy to see why using water wisely not only makes sense from a conservation standpoint, but can also save the average consumer hundreds of dollars each year.

where is all that water used?

Most of it is used in the bathroom. The largest water user in any household is the toilet, and at 2-7 gallons per flush, they account for around 27% of the water used in a typical home. Showers, at over 2 gallons per minute, account for around 17% of the water used, while other bathroom uses such as baths & faucets account for around 10%.

The second highest water user is the washing machine. At around 41 gallons per load, clothes washing accounts for about 22% of the water used in a typical household.

Next, it is estimated that around 14% of the water provided to most homes is lost through leaks. This is literally water and money down the drain.

The remaining water used in a home is divided up between kitchen faucets, dishwashers and other domestic uses.

well then, how can I reduce the amount of water I use?

There are many ways, most are common sense, but here are a few water saving tips.

Fix Leaks...Leaking toilets can account for a surprisingly large amount of water, as most leaks are located in the tanks where they can't be seen or heard. Leaking faucets, even those with small leaks of 60 drops per minute, can waste around 260 gallons per month. Most leaks at faucets and toilets can be repaired with simple tools and inexpensive parts available at most hardware stores.

Use more efficient fixtures...Replace inefficient showerheads with low-flow types and faucets fitted with aerators. Even larger items such as toilets, washing machines & dishwashers can pay for themselves in a relatively short period of time by replacing older models with newer, higher efficiency ones. Make older toilets more efficient by placing simple toilet "dams" or a plastic bottle filled with pebbles in the tank.

Use water wisely..... Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads, or by using lower time and load size selections. Keep a filled pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of letting the water run for several minutes to reach the desired temperature. Take shorter showers, turn off the water while brushing your teeth, and put food scraps in the garbage instead of the garbage disposal.

Water lawns & gardens effectively...While perfect looking lawns are nice, it's natural for grass to be less than bright green during dry periods. If you must water the lawn or garden, do it less frequently and avoid the middle of the day or on sunny, windy days where up to 50% of the water can be lost to evaporation.

Water Loss in Gallons

Leak this size	Loss per day	Loss per month
•	120	3,600
•	360	10,800
•	693	20,790
•	1,200	36,000
•	1,920	37,600
•	3,096	92,880
•	4,296	128,980
•	6,640	199,200
•	6,984	200,520
•	8,424	252,720

unrepaired leaks can be costly

Leaking faucet (100 drips/min.) = 350 gallons/month
Leaking toilet (1/2 gpm) = 21,600 gallons/month

Watering garden or lawn*
2 hrs. @ 5 gpm = 18,000 gallons/month
2 hrs. @ 10 gpm = 36,000 gallons/month
**20-50% of water used lost to evaporation or run-off*

Unattended water hose
9 hrs. @ 10 gpm = 5,400 gallons